

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION OPPOSING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S DECLARATION BANNING TRANS GENDER PEOPLE FROM SERVING IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the County of San Mateo promotes inclusiveness, supports its transgender residents, and created the San Mateo County LGBTQ Commission to focus on the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,320 to 6,630 active service members are transgender and up to 15,500 transgender people are currently enlisted in active duty, the reserves, and the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the cost of providing health care services to transgender service members is relatively low and, at most, amounts to one percent of the annual Department of Defense budget; and

WHEREAS, fifty-six retired generals and admirals argue a ban on transgender persons from serving in the military would harm the armed forces by disrupting units and decreasing the talent the military can recruit; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of the Department of Defense have announced that no modifications to the current policy will be made until additional guidance has been received from the President; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard Commandant has rebuked the President's recommendation and stated he will "not turn [his] back" on transgender Coast Guard service members; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Department has stated, as of August 2, 2017, it still has not received any guidance on implementing the President's alleged policy; and

WHEREAS, nineteen countries allow transgender persons to serve in their armed forces; and

WHEREAS, there have already been fifteen deaths of transgender persons as a result of fatal violence in the United States in 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors strongly opposes President Trump's declaration banning transgender people from serving in the United States Military.